

# **Michigan Department of Human Services**

## **Strategic Plan 2005-2008**



# Michigan Department of Human Services

## Strategic Plan 2005-2008

### MISSION

The Michigan Department of Human Services assists children, families and vulnerable adults to be safe, stable and self-supporting.

### VISION

We will:

- Reduce poverty
- Help all children have a great start in life
- Help our clients achieve their full potential

### VALUES - HOW WE DO OUR WORK

In our day-to-day work we will live the values of Integrity, Inclusion, Teamwork and Excellence in the way we treat our clients, each other, employees and our partners.

All of our efforts will keep in the forefront:

- Treating our clients with dignity and respect
- Honoring the diversity of our workforce and clients
- Developing our workforce at all levels
- Ensuring accuracy and integrity in our work and programs
- Assuring an outcomes focus and investment strategies based on proven results
- Maximizing the use of available federal and private revenues
- Collaborating with all government entities, community partners and the private sector

### GOAL 1 – Support staff and improve internal efficiency

#### Measurable Outcomes:

##### Systems

2007 – Both the SWSS CPS and Bridges systems will reduce data entry, provide more timely information and increase the efficiency of staff.

2008 – The SWSS FAJ system will reduce data entry, provide more timely information and increase the efficiency of staff.

##### Human Resources

##### Hiring

2008 – 80% of Eligibility Specialist, Family Independence Specialist and Services Specialist vacancies will be filled within 55 days.

##### Leadership

2007 – Increase 2006 DHS employee engagement scores from 63% to 66%.

2008 – Increase the 2007 MI360 average results for each of the five core leadership competencies from 5 to 5.2.

##### Labor Relations

2007 – In 95% of the cases that reach 3<sup>rd</sup> step, managers will have consulted labor relations from the outset and established a plan of action.

#### Initiatives:

- a. Implement Bridges and SWSS information technology systems.
- b. Reengineer business processes, including policy and task simplification, to eliminate duplication, unnecessary steps and reports; and to streamline procedures for staff and clients.

- c. Strengthen and improve human resource policies and practices.
  - Implement an effective and efficient hiring process.
  - Strengthen effective leadership to improve the work environment.
  - Implement an effective, efficient and consistent labor relations process including discipline process.

**Goal 2 – Assure all children have access to a community-based, comprehensive, quality system of early care and education.**

**Measurable Outcomes:**

- 2008 – 20% of regulated family home providers, group home providers and child care center staff will have a CDA Credential or higher.
- 2009 – 30% of regulated family homes, group homes and child care centers will be voluntarily participating in a Quality Rating System.
- 2010 – 20% of regulated family homes, group homes and child care centers will be rated 3 stars.

**Initiatives:**

- a. Institute a child care provider rating system.
- b. Provide access to adequate child development opportunities for day care staff, relative providers and aides.
- c. Implement child care quality recommendations of the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC).
- d. County Directors in Great Start Collaborative communities will have a plan in place to support the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) efforts.

**Goal 3 – Increase the percent of financial assistance clients who become self-sufficient.**

**Measurable Outcomes:**

- 2007 – 2% increase each year in participation in the Earned Income Tax Credit, Home Heating Credit and Homestead Tax Credit.
- 2008 – 2% increase each year in participation in the Earned Income Tax Credit, Home Heating Credit and Homestead Tax Credit.
- 2010 – 33% reduction in the number of children living in or near poverty.

**Initiatives:**

- a. Implement the Jobs, Education and Training Program.
- b. Implement Energy Direct and simplify other State Emergency Relief services.
- c. Increase family income through programs such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Support collections, tax credits, Home Heating Credit and Homestead Tax Credit relief.
- d. Implement anti-poverty pilots and replicate other successful service models in communities.

**GOAL 4 – Strengthen the child welfare system to achieve better outcomes for children and youth.**

**Measurable Outcomes:**

**Abuse and Neglect**

- 2007 – 2009- Increase by 4% per year the number of children per 1,000 who remain outside the foster care system and safely in their own homes.

- 2007-2009- Decrease by 5% per year the median length of stay of children in out of home placement.

**Juvenile Justice**

- 2007 – 80% of youth released from the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system will remain free from another juvenile or adult felony conviction for at least 12 months post-release; 70% for at least 24 months post-release.

- 2009 – 85% of the youth released from the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system will remain free from another juvenile or adult felony conviction for at least 12 months post-released; 75% for at least 24 months post-release.

**Initiatives:**

- a. Enhance the continuum of care for children by:
  - Implementing the Family-to-Family model statewide.
  - Implementing treatment foster care and other intensive community-based services.
  - Developing a plan for the development and implementation of community-based, family-focused services and supports.
- b. Provide services to older youth in the system by providing and expanding support services to ensure permanent connections to caring adults.
- c. Reduce the over-representation of children and youth of color in the child welfare system.
- d. Intensify and accelerate efforts to safeguard children through enhanced training, communication, care giver assessments and accountability.
- e. Implement an effective quality assurance evaluation for juvenile justice youth in both public and private facilities.
- f. Strengthen the relationships between juvenile justice institutions and county-based staff.

**GOAL 5 – Increase the percent of adults receiving needed care in safe, community-based settings.****Measurable Outcomes:****Setting of their Choice**

2007 – Increase by 5% the percentage of DHS adult services legally competent clients who are in a setting of their choice.

2008 – Increase by 5% the percentage of DHS adult services legally competent clients who are in the setting of their choice.

**Adult Licensing**

2008 – Increase by 10% the number of adult facilities regulated by DHS that are in substantial compliance with licensing rules.

**Single Point of Entry**

2007 – In the Single Point of Entry Sites overall client satisfaction will be at least 80%.

**Initiatives:**

- a. Implement best practices such as TRIADS, and work with financial professionals and elder abuse councils for building community partnerships, identifying community resources and receipt of appropriate services for Adult Protective Services clients.
- b. Strengthen licensure and other regulatory approaches to improve the quality of care for adult living options, and expand licensing staff roles to provide consultation.
- c. Expand care options, assure timely access to resources, improve the quality of care, and assure a continuum of care for adults by implementing the Long Term Care Task Force Single Point of Entry.

**GOAL 6 – Strengthen prevention and early intervention programs.****Measurable Outcomes:****Homelessness**

2007 – 10% increase in the number of home ownership individual development accounts.

2008 – 10 % reduction in homelessness over 2007.

**Prevention**

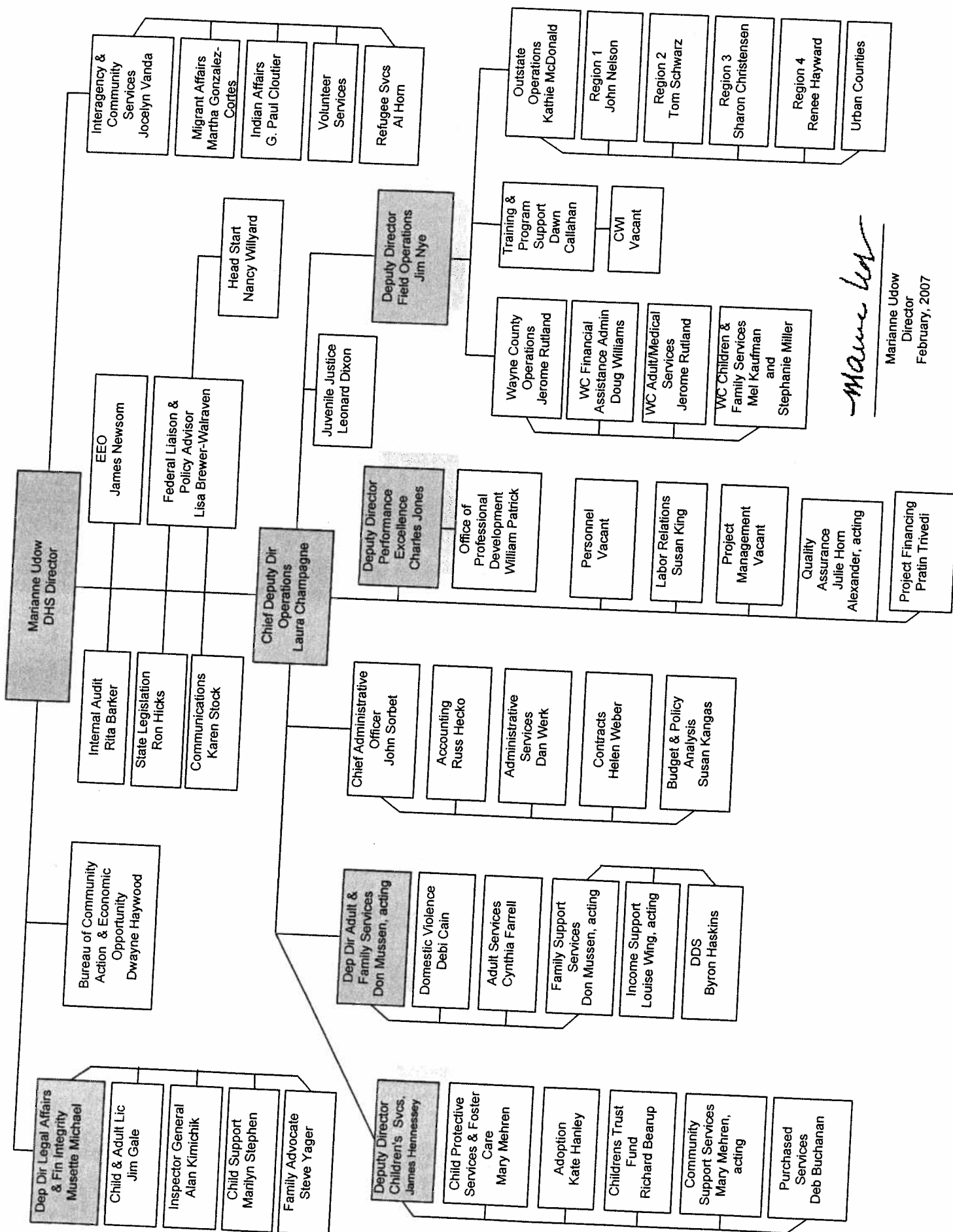
2007 – Expand the prevention dollars available by 5%.

2009 – Expand the prevention dollars available by 15%.

2008 – In 85% of the families receiving prevention services, children will remain safely in their own homes for at least one year.

**Initiatives:**

- a. Implement the 10 year plan to end homelessness in Michigan.
- b. Enhance the intake assessment process to provide preventive services through early identification of client-specific needs and offer provisions for appropriate services.
- c. Continue and expand the Family Resource Centers.
- d. Catalog county prevention programs and evaluate and share outcome data.



*Marianne Udow*

Marianne Udow  
Director  
February, 2007

## **Department of Human Services 2006 Year End Accomplishments**

### ***JET welfare reform rollout***

In October, Michigan Department of Human Services expanded the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) welfare reform program in 4 pilot counties and will expand it to an additional 15 counties in January 2007. The DHS and Department of Labor & Economic Growth developed JET to help welfare recipients become self-sufficient and permanently attached to the labor force. The fiscal year 2007 budget provides funding for an additional 26 DHS offices to serve an estimated 27,700 DHS clients, about half of all clients in the state who receive cash assistance.

The DHS welfare reform plan will meet federal work participation requirements within the federal time frame, protect the safety net, and help people connect to jobs so they can move their families out of poverty. The JET program:

- Uses a thorough up-front "Family Self-Sufficiency Plan" to tailor supports and services to the individual circumstances of recipient and family.
- Expands educational and training opportunities so clients gain the skills they need to get a good paying job.
- Focuses career and technical training opportunities on jobs available in the Michigan economy (e.g., health care, construction).
- Provides supportive services when clients face serious barriers to work with the goal of reducing or removing those barriers so clients can participate in work or work preparation.
- Provides advocacy and support for those who are making application for Supplemental Security Income.
- Extends post-employment support from 90 days to 180 days to help clients retain jobs and prepare a plan for advancement.

### ***Family Resource Center expansion***

The Michigan Department of Human Services was operating 44 Family Resource Centers in at-risk schools around the state in 2006 with another 9 centers scheduled for development during the school year. In the 2004-05 school year, 40 percent of schools that had previously failed to meet adequate yearly progress – and included Family Resource Centers as part of their school improvement plans – made enough progress to move off the priority schools list. This compares to 10 percent of the schools without a Family Resource Center making similar progress.

Family Resource Centers, one of Gov. Granholm's initiatives, have been operating in selected elementary and middle schools for the past two years. State and local agencies provide child and family services at the centers in the school building. The DHS has located staff in all Family Resource Centers; their presence helps at-risk schools focus on instruction and meet standardized guidelines. In addition to improvement in adequate yearly progress last school year, families in these schools made improvements in other areas thanks to the presence of Family Resource Centers. The work DHS family resource specialists do in the Family Resource Centers each day has a profound effect on the lives of the children in those schools.

### ***Early Childhood Investment Corporation***

The Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) strengthened early childhood development and care programs around Michigan in 2006 through \$3.15 million in grant awards to 21 Great Start Collaboratives. Each collaborative coordinates community resources and supports to help children from birth to age five and their families. About 70 percent of Michigan's poor and minority children live in a county where a Great Start Collaborative is being convened.

ECIC grants are from a mix of public and private funding sources. Michigan Department of Human Services administratively houses the ECIC, a unique public, nonprofit corporation created to invest in Michigan's youngest citizens. By educating, motivating and involving Michigan citizens in efforts to build

and promote a system of supports for young children and their families, all Michigan children can make a Great Start!

### ***Family to Family rollout***

Michigan Department of Human Services continued rollout of the child welfare reform initiative called Family to Family; 63 counties are practicing the model and all counties are engaged in some level of implementation, which will be complete by the end of 2007. The goal of Family to Family is to place children who must be removed from their families with one permanent and stable family in the child's own community until reunification with birth families can occur or until the child is released for adoption.

Family to Family is a partnership between the local Department of Human Services and the community to reduce disruption in the lives of at-risk children. This approach ensures that birth parents, foster parents and community representatives are involved in the decision-making process concerning the placement and service needs of at-risk children. The Family to Family model protects children by:

- Increasing family involvement and investment in developing safety and service plans for their children.
- Utilizing extended family, kin and community-based resources to support the family and monitor the safety of the children.
- Providing better information to DHS staff to ensure that all safety issues are addressed and back-up plans are available.
- Keeping the children in the community, their school and with siblings who know what is "normal" for the child and will be alert to any changes that may signal problems.
- Greater use of individualized services to meet the unique needs of a particular family.

### ***Strengthened children's worker training***

Michigan Department of Human Services and Michigan State Police Director began a collaboration to strengthen the investigation training program to give children's services workers and supervisors better tools to anticipate potentially dangerous situations.

Five elements of the required training are:

- Development and use of an evidence checklist - DHS staff use a checklist that includes a listing of observable factors that may indicate the presence of neglect or abuse. CPS workers use this list to gauge the severity and number of factors in each case, which determine the need to escalate the interaction with the family from a visit to an investigation.
- Development and use of a report writing handbook and improved report writing - DHS workers use a handbook that details what the investigative report must include, allowing workers to gather better information during the course of the investigation. MSP training helps children's protective services workers and foster care staff more accurately document observations, information and statements during client interactions.
- Improved intervention training – MSP training focuses on improving case investigation skills for children's services workers.
- Improved interview training - MSP training improves the critical interviews CPS workers conduct to determine child abuse or neglect and the need for law enforcement involvement.
- Enhanced supervisory training – Children's services supervisors are trained to use the evidence checklist and report writing handbook. Additionally, MSP training helps them develop a higher level of technical knowledge in the areas of investigation and documentation in investigative reports.

### ***Waiver approved for prevention and intervention services***

In April, Michigan Department of Human Services was one of five states approved by the federal government to use Title IV-E foster care funding to pay for prevention and early intervention services. The waiver allows the use of federal funding to help more Michigan children remain safely in their own homes and reduce the number of children who grow up in foster care. Funding can also be used for services to help children already in care return home in a safe and timely manner or – when this is not possible – move more quickly into a permanent family.

Under the waiver, the state is conducting pilots in five communities including two in Wayne County. The Wayne County pilot includes six Detroit neighborhoods that are part of the Skillman Foundation's Good Neighborhoods Initiative. In pilot counties, the state will use IV-E funds to expand family preservation programs (like Families First of Michigan), strengthen family reunification programs, and increase involvement of both birth parents and foster parents in decisions made on behalf of the child. The state can also use the funds to stabilize adoptions and support relative caregivers.

### ***Foster care "aging out" report***

Michigan Department of Human Services released a task force report to the Michigan Legislature in October. The plan includes a 21-step plan to address services for youths that "age out" of foster care system. About 450 youths in Michigan left foster care, or "aged out," at age 18 during 2005. These young adults are at greater risk for poverty, homelessness, unemployment and other negative outcomes.

Organizations represented on the task force are taking the following steps among the 21 action items outlined in the report:

- Establishing a youth-friendly Web site with a wide range of information for foster care youths.
- Making automatic referrals of foster care youths to Michigan Works! Agencies youth programs.
- Expanding summer training and enrichment programs that place youths in part-time internships with employers who provide mentors and career-oriented jobs.
- Creating seamless Medicaid eligibility for foster care youths to age 21.
- Allowing voluntary extension of foster care beyond age 18.
- Expanding dental care coverage for current and former foster care youths.
- Creating an online student record database so schools can immediately access student records from previous schools when foster care placement changes mean school changes.
- Dedicating financial and other resources that support success in post-secondary education and training, including stipends for year-round housing.
- Giving access to critical documents such as birth certificates and Social Security cards.
- Giving permanency supports that use technology to find and connect youths with family members.
- Increasing use of Individual Development Accounts (matched savings accounts) to help youths learn long-term savings habits.

View the report at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS-Boilerplate-Task-Force-At-Risk-Youth\\_174099\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS-Boilerplate-Task-Force-At-Risk-Youth_174099_7.pdf)

### ***Minority overrepresentation in child welfare services***

In March, a state task force on the overrepresentation of children of color in child welfare released *Equity: Moving Toward Better Outcomes for All of Michigan's Children*. The report made 11 recommendations to the governor and state Legislature for action by the Department of Human Services, the Legislature, private agency providers and community partners including:

- Identify and target funding to ensure that services are available to help keep children safely with their birth families.
- Maximize federal Title IV-E (foster care) administrative funding.
- Pursue a federal waiver to allow more flexibility in the use of Title IV-E funds.
- Review the impact of all DHS child welfare policies, programs, and procedures on families and children of color.
- Ensure culturally proficient practices.
- Engage families as partners at each critical decision point in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- Provide appropriate resources to address families' basic needs.
- Focus resources on the most vulnerable families.
- Build community support for reducing overrepresentation.
- Monitor the state's progress in reducing overrepresentation.
- Ensure local accountability.



The report, which addresses issues common in most states, later received national attention when its recommendations were addressed at the National Conference of State Legislatures annual conference in August.

View the report at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/DHS-Child-Equity-Report\\_153952\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/DHS-Child-Equity-Report_153952_7.pdf)

### ***Electronic child support payments***

The Department of Human Services Office of Child Support, in coordination with county Friend of the Courts, began disbursing child support payments through a debit card in 82 Michigan counties 2007. The rollout will be completed by January 2007. A new law requires all child support payments to be electronically disbursed via direct deposit into a personal checking/savings account or to a debit card unless recipients meet hardship exception criteria.

Customers who formerly received paper checks were given the choice of direct deposit to their checking/savings account or to a debit card. Before implementation of the law, about 30 percent of child support recipients in the state had their payments directly deposited into their personal checking or savings account. Customers currently participating in direct deposit are not required to switch to the debit card.

The electronic disbursement of child support rolled out during 2006 was very successful. Customers have responded very positively and Michigan has had one of the smoothest rollouts in the nation. It will be completed with the Wayne County rollout in January 2007.

### ***Innovative fraud detection***

Michigan Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General won a special recognition award for innovative use of technology for fraud detection Oct. 17 from The National Association of State Chief Information Officers. In partnership with Michigan Department of Information Technology, the DHS implemented cutting-edge fraud detection methods that established a national model in innovative techniques to battle day care and food assistance fraud.

To combat fraud, DHS links provider and recipient data with wage and national food assistance data. In fiscal year 2005 the efforts identified more than \$9.2 million in documented day care fraud to be recovered. This was up from \$3.3 million in 2004, the first year of the data match. In addition, DHS identified Food Assistance savings of \$3.2 million.

### ***Comprehensive seasonal farmworker report***

The *2006 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study* was released by the Department of Human Services in November 2006 providing the state with the most comprehensive estimate of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families in Michigan provided in the last 15 years. The report was spearheaded by the DHS Office of Migrant Affairs and organized by the statewide Interagency Migrant Services Committee. The research was funded through the Michigan departments of Civil Rights and Education with a \$30,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The report provides valuable county-level data on the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers living across the state with their family members and children. The study clearly points to the continued strength of family migration in the Midwest migrant stream with Michigan serving as a premier destination for farmworker families. It indicates Michigan has a total of 45,800 adult migrant and seasonal farmworkers working in the state and an additional set of 44,916 dependents living in farmworker households. The report also indicates 91 percent of those dependents are young people between the ages of 0-20. The total farmworker population in the state is estimated at 90,716 people.

View the report at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS-MSFW-Study-2006\\_179382\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS-MSFW-Study-2006_179382_7.pdf)

# Michigan Department of Human Services

*Assists children, families and vulnerable adults to be safe, stable and self-supporting*

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

**TANF - Family Independence Program (FIP)** - This is Michigan's Welfare Reform Program that provides cash assistance to families who meet the income and eligibility requirements. The program encompasses the work requirements required by federal welfare reform and Department of Human Services (DHS) works closely with Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) to which clients are referred for employment services. Funding is both state and federal. Contact: local DHS offices.

**Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly Food Stamps]** - Department of Human Services administers this program for the federal government. DHS receives the applications and determines eligibility based on federal eligibility criteria. Program benefits are totally funded by the federal government, the state and federal government share administrative costs. Contact: local DHS offices.

**Medicaid (Medical Assistance, MA)** - Medicaid provides medical assistance to individuals and families who meet the financial and non-financial eligibility factors. The goal of the Medicaid program is to ensure that essential health care services are made available to those who otherwise could not afford them. Department of Community Health administers MA while Department of Human Services determines eligibility. Contact: local DHS offices.

**Adult Medical Program (AMP)** - AMP provides basic, outpatient health care services to low-income adults who do not qualify for Medicaid or other medical benefits. AMP is administered by Department of Community Health while Department of Human Services determined eligibility. Contact: local DHS offices.

**State Disability Assistance (SDA)** - This program provides financial assistance to disabled persons who are not eligible for the FIP program (i.e., single adults and childless couples). This program is totally state funded. Contact: local DHS offices.

**State Emergency Relief (SER)** - This program provides temporary financial help to needy persons faced with an emergency situation which threatens health and safety and which would be resolved with the SER payment. Payments are made for the minimum amount necessary to resolve the emergency on an as-needed basis. The program is funded with both state and federal funds. Contact: local DHS offices.

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** - This program provides assistance to disadvantaged households in meeting the costs of energy. Assistance can be through Michigan's Home Heating Credit (HHC), crisis assistance for those facing energy emergencies, and Weatherization Services. The program is funded with both state and federal funds. Contacts: local DHS Offices, Home Heating hotline 1-800-292-5650, Home Heating Credit 1-800-827-4000 or online at [www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance](http://www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance).

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** - This is a federal program which provides a monthly payment to low income individuals who are aged, blind or disabled. Applications are made at Social Security Offices throughout the state. Under agreement with the federal government Department of Human Services through their **Disability Determination Services** makes the disability determination for SSI on behalf of the federal government. The federal government funds the program; however, the state supplements the payments. Contacts: local social security administration office or the social security administration 1-800-772-1213.

**Child Development and Care [formerly Child Day Care]** - These services are provided for eligible families when the parent, legal guardian or other caretaker is unavailable to provide child care because of employment, education or because of a health or social condition for which treatment is being received. Services are provided to low-income families who meet eligibility criteria. Families receiving FIP receive day care to support their employment. Child day care providers must be licensed and payments are made directly to the provider when care is provided outside the home. The program is funded with both state and federal funds. Contact: local DHS offices.

**Child Support** - The Department of Human Services Child Support Program provides paternity determination, child support order establishment, health insurance obligation establishment, order enforcement and collection services to custodial parents and families in a joint effort with prosecuting attorneys and Friends of the Court. The program is federally, state and locally funded. Contacts: Office of Child Support 1-800-866-540-0008, or local Friend of the Court.

## CHILD SERVICES PROGRAMS

**Adoption & Adoption Subsidy** - DHS places children for adoption whose parents' rights have been terminated through an action of the court and placed under DHS supervision or committed to DHS's **Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) Superintendent** as the child's legal guardian. The Adoption Subsidy Program provides financial support and/or medical subsidy to adoptive families to facilitate the adoption of children who are placed by DHS. The DHS Adoption Program is also responsible for the Central Adoption Registry, which maintains statements from birth parents consenting to or denying access to identifying information in adoption records. The Adoption Program and Adoption Subsidy Program are funded with federal and state funds. Contacts: local DHS offices, DHS Adoption Services (517) 373-3513 (requests for information on closed adoption records), Adoption Subsidy Program (517) 373-3513, MCI Superintendent (517) 373-3594, Safe Delivery hotline (866) 733-7733.

**Adult Services** - Administers Adult Community Placement/Adult Foster Care/Homes for the Aged which assists persons who cannot live independently to find appropriate living arrangements, co-administers with the Department of Community Health Home Help and Physical Disability Services. The Home Help program provides payments to facilitate independent living through activities of daily living and

instrumental activities of daily living. Physical Disability Services provides payment for medically necessary equipment and services for eligible individuals not covered by Medicaid. Adult Services also includes HIV Advocacy and Insurance Assistance. Funding is both state and federal. Contacts: local DHS offices for Adult Services, 1-877-342-AIDS for HIV information.

**Adult Protective Services** - This program provides protection to vulnerable adults (18 years or older) who are at risk of harm due to the presence or threat of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Funding is both state and federal. Contacts: local DHS offices or statewide Vulnerable Adult help line (800) 996-6228.

**Family Centered Community Based Programs** - Prevention services and family preservation services are a collaborative effort between DHS and many partners. At the local level, the multi-purpose community collaboratives (CC) work with DHS to provide services. Funding is both state and federal. Contacts: local DHS offices or the Community Supportive Division (517) 335-6080.

**Children's Foster Care** - This program provides placement and supervision to ensure permanency planning for children who are the responsibility of DHS and have been removed from their parents by action of the court, or children whose parents have voluntarily given up their parental rights. Foster care services are provided through a partnership between DHS and private non-profit licensed childcare organizations. Funding is both state and federal. Contacts: local DHS offices.

**Children's Protective Services** - This program investigates allegations that a child under the age of 18 is suspected of being abused or neglected by a parent, legal guardian or adult who lives in the same home as the child, and assesses the safety and risk to the child and intervenes appropriately. DHS has only investigative authority; enforcement authority is with the police and courts. Anyone may make a complaint if abuse or neglect is suspected. The identity of the reporting person is confidential. Funding is both state and federal. Contacts: local DHS emergency number listed in the phone book or the Child Abuse Parent Help Line 1-800-942-4357; Child Fatality Review Team (517) 324-7330.

**Bureau of Juvenile Justice** - This program has responsibility for youth between the ages of 12 and 21 who have violated the law and are committed to DHS by the court. Based on an assessment of each youth and their need for security, they are placed in either community-based settings, a private residential facility or a DHS operated residential facility. Funding is both state and federal. Contacts: local DHS offices, DHS Bureau of Juvenile Justice or for Education Services for youth in DHS juvenile justice programs (517) 335-3489.

## **OTHER SERVICE PROGRAMS**

Migrant Services (517-373-3567), Refugee Assistance Program (517-241-7824), Native American Affairs & Indian Outreach, (517) 335-7782; Runaway and Homeless Youth Services Program, 1-800-292-4517; Teen Parent Program, (517) 335-6080; Volunteer Services, (517) 335-0641.

## **BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND (CTF)** - A 15-member State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, which raises and distributes funds to local child abuse prevention direct service providers. Contact: CTF (517) 373-4320.

**COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE** - A 23-member committee that implements the federal Juvenile Justice Prevention Act. The committee ensures the state's compliance with the federal law's core requirements for juveniles and authorizes grants from the federal government to local communities for delinquency prevention. Contact: Bureau of Juvenile Justice (517) 373-4320.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION & TREATMENT BOARD** - A 7-member multi-disciplinary board which distributes state and federal money to local domestic violence programs and shelters, provides education and training on domestic violence, and coordinates with state and local entities working with families in which domestic violence is present. Contacts: the Board office (517) 335-6388, vulnerable adult help line 1-800-99 NO ABUSE, Domestic Violence hotline 1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 (TDD LINE), or the local domestic violence program.

**GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN'S JUSTICE** - A 29-member multi-disciplinary entity that implements the federal Children's Justice Act. The Task Force reviews Michigan's investigative, administration and judicial handling of child abuse, particularly child sexual abuses and makes recommendations for law revisions and system improvements. The Task Force also develops model programs for statewide implementation. All funds are federal. Contact: (517) 373-9171.

**JUVENILE CRIME ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE** - A 7-member committee required by federal law to implement the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant. The committee develops a coordinated enforcement plan for reducing juvenile crime and authorizes grant funds to local governments. Contact: Bureau of Juvenile Justice (517) 335-3489.

Department of Human Services' State Legislative Liaison, Ron Hicks, (517) 335-3482 Legislative Analyst, Tammy Jakus, (517) 335-3482; Family Advocate, Steve Yager, (517) 373-2101
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## **Department of Human Services Child Welfare Reform**

**These are the steps we have already taken to protect and care for children in the child welfare system during the period of 2003-2007:**

- **Expanded Family to Family approach from 5 to 83 counties.** Family to Family represents a fundamental change in the way the state provides child welfare services, focused on keeping children in their own homes whenever safely possible; bringing families, agencies, and communities together to make decisions for children as a team; and recruiting foster families in neighborhoods so more children can stay close to family, schools, and all that is familiar to them.
- **Increased resources for prevention and early intervention services.** Michigan is one of a handful of states granted a federal waiver allowing the state to pay for prevention and early intervention services with traditional foster care funds. This means more resources on the front end, to keep children from entering the foster care system in the first place.
- **Improving resources and services for youths "aging out" of the foster care system.** About 500 youths leave the foster care system each year simply due to their age. We are implementing recommendations of a joint state/court task force to improve the lives of these youths, based on the ideas and suggestions of the youths themselves.
- **Taking on the national issue of race equity in the child welfare system.** We are now implementing the recommendations of the racial equity task force to reduce over-representation of children of color in the child welfare system.
- **Strengthened safety measures:**
  - Increased frequency of background checks - criminal and CPS Central Registry
  - New flags that trigger protective services investigations ( preliminary or full)
  - New hotline for mandatory reporters to follow up on reports of abuse/neglect.
- **Strengthening worker skills:**
  - Mandatory training in program-specific supervision skills for all protective services, foster care, and adoption supervisors.
  - Training partnership with the Michigan State Police to strengthen workers' investigative skills and techniques.
- **Implementing "one-family, one-file" approach** to streamlining computerized case management, so that every worker in every county sees all information related to a specific case, regardless of location or time frame.



# DHS priorities for FY2007 budget

- **Improved efficiency**
  - Bridges project 60% complete overall in 2007
  - Services Workers Support System (SWSS) improvements statewide
- **Strengthening child care and development**
  - Improved quality and continued fraud reduction
  - Support of the ECIC and *Great Start* Collaboratives
- **Poverty reduction**
  - JET pilots: welfare reform
  - Other poverty reduction pilots
- **Implementation of Child Welfare Blueprint**
  - Racial Equity
  - Older youth in care
  - Enhancing CPS support
  - Family to Family
  - Prevention focus
- **Adult Services**
  - Ending Homelessness initiative
  - Elder Abuse Task Force
- **Increased prevention/early intervention services**
  - Family Resource Centers